# A STARR IS RE-BORN

**Brenda Starr, intrepid and indefatiguable reporter of The Flash newspaper, has now been entertaining readers for over 50 years. Her creator, the bright, vital and still incredibly bouncy Dale Messick is now eighty years old.**

Messick first drew the world's most glamourous reporter in 1940, and continued to do so for 43 years. Messick is now retired and lives in Santa Rosa, California, but her creation still lives on.

When Brenda Starr was first planned, she was a ravishing redheaded bandit, but the wiser heads at the old Chicago Tribune Syndicate suggested Messick change the bandit into a reporter. Dale named her Brenda for Brenda Frazier, the top debutante of the 40's and Starr for star reporter.

By the 1960's the "star reporter" of The Flash had over 40 million faithful fans. She appeared in more than 100 newspapers in the United States and in five foreign countries.

Within five years of her creation, *Brenda Starr* had three creators: Messick and two assistants. Messick still came up with the original stories and illustrations, but now one assistant corrected her notorious spelling while the other drew mechanical things, such as cars, planes, buildings and boats.

The only aspect of Starr that her editors couldn't change was the implausible speed by which Brenda changed her haute coutier clothes. "I can't stand drawing Brenda in the same thing very long," Messick complained at the time, "editors are so meticulous - if there is anything I hate it's being precise."

So the quick costume changes stayed along with the spelling errors, forgotten details and occassional lost plot lines.

It seems almost inevitable now, that eventually Hollywood would pick up on Brenda Starr as perfect movie material. Flash Gordon, Superman, Batman and, more recently, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles had all gone the way of live action movies. So Brenda Starr came to life with famed actress/model Brooke Shields as the intrepid reporter - complete with costume's designed by Cher's designer, Bob Mackie.



*Brenda Starr*, the movie, has a very unique angle. Rather than simply create the famous reporter on screen, the creators decided to give the film a twist. This story begins with an artist at a storyboard, drawing the current *Brenda Starr* comic strip. After listening to his insults day after day, the Brenda Starr of the comic strip decides to take matters into her own hands - she leaves the strip and the adventure begins.

*- Lyn Jones*